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AWS TO INVEST ₹20,761 CRORE IN TELANGANA

Amazon Web Services (AWS) on Friday announced setting up of its second data centre region in India in Telangana that will be operational by mid-2022, and will see investment of about ₹20,761 crore. Minister KT Rama Rao said the firm plans to set up multiple data centres in the state. P7

JOE BIDEN
264 Electoral college votes
73,670,575 popular vote

DONALD TRUMP
Electoral college votes 214
69,732,717 popular vote

270 TO WIN

Biden blitzkrieg continues

Races past Trump in Pennsylvania; recount set to be ordered in Georgia where he now has a narrow lead; also ahead in Nevada

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE

DEMOCRAT Joe Biden on Friday got within kissing distance of the White House as he overtook President Donald Trump in the vote count in the big battleground states of Pennsylvania and Georgia.

The two states have 20 and 16 electoral college votes respectively and their vote tabulation is expected to end by Friday. Biden needs just six to reach the halfway mark of 270. However, Georgia's Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger indicated a recount. "With a margin that small, there will be a recount... "The final tally in Georgia at this point has huge implications for the entire country," he told CBS News. If Biden wins Georgia, he would be the first Democrat to flip it since Bill Clinton in 1992. Biden is also ahead in Nevada that has six electors, but its final vote tally is expected to take a few more days.

A desperate Trump continued haranguing the tabulation of mail-in votes, since most of them are expected to be Democrat-leaning. It is these postal votes that snuffed out his leads in Pennsylvania and Georgia. "They're trying to rig an election, and we can't let that happen," he argued, but several media networks cut off telecast of his briefing at the White House midway as he charges were unsubstantiated. In contrast, Biden was measured and presidential in his response: "No one is going to take our democracy away from us. Not now, not ever."

Trump's aides initiated legal challenges in several states, but judges in Georgia and Michigan threw them out, putting his campaign's legal strategy — to attack the integrity of the voting process — in disarray.

Trump also stood isolated even within his Republican party. His sons Don Jr and Eric articulated the frustration, accusing the party of being "weak", adding "Our voters will never forget you if your [sic] sheep!" "The total lack of action from virtually all of the '2024 GOP [Republican] hopefuls' is pretty amazing," Don Jr tweeted. P11

K'TAKA BACKTRACKS ON CRACKER BAN, CM APPEALS FOR GREEN CELEBRATION

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

COMING under severe fire from party leaders and supporters over his government's decision to ban firecrackers this Deepavali, Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa took a U-turn — from banning it to appealing that only green crackers be used.

On Friday morning, Yediyurappa said that the government had decided to prohibit the use of firecrackers this year, given the pandemic situation. Within hours of the announcement which brought appreciation as well as criticism for the CM, Yediyurappa issued a statement later "appealing" to people to use green crackers.

"The government has held discussions and has decided to prohibit the use of firecrackers this Deepavali. A decision has already been taken and orders will be issued soon. Only

for this year, given the Covid-19 pandemic and other issues, firecrackers will be prohibited," the Chief Minister said on Friday morning.

Hours later, he issued a statement saying, "Many suggestions have come in from the public over the sale and use of crackers this Deepavali. The government is doing everything to contain Covid-19. Given the situation, it is deemed fit to celebrate Deepavali in a simple, meaningful, devotional manner keeping public health in mind. In this regard, it is requested that only green crackers are used."

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EXPRESS READ

Modi to meet Xi at virtual SCO summit

New Delhi: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping are expected to come face-to-face virtually at the annual summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on November 10. The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday said Modi will lead the Indian delegation at the summit.

Can't rule out larger conflict with China: CDS

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

A larger conflict with China cannot be ruled out, Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) Gen Bipin Rawat, the senior-most military officer in the country, warned on Friday.

"In the overall security calculus, border confrontations, transgressions and unprovoked tactical military actions spiralling into a larger conflict cannot, therefore, be discounted," he said. China's People's Liberation Army is facing "unanticipated consequences" for its misadventure in eastern Ladakh, thanks to Indian forces' firm and strong response, he said. "Our posturing is unambiguous. We will not accept any shifting of the LAC", General Rawat added.

The CDS was delivering a keynote address at a webinar on 'India's National Security-The Decade Ahead' at the National Defence College. P10